

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525



Dr. Jennifer P. Byars
Superintendent of Schools

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January 10, 2023

Woodbridge Town Planning and Zoning Commission
c/o Kristine Sullivan
11 Meetinghouse Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525

Re: Request to Change 1988 Guidelines on the Use of Stadium Field Lights at Amity Regional High School

Dear Woodbridge TPZ Commission:

In 1988, the Woodbridge TPZ Commission approved the installation of lights at the high school football field under the condition that the School District follow guidelines for conducting evening football activities (see attached). When the stadium renovations were completed in 2021, the Amity Regional School District continued to operate under those guidelines.

The Amity Regional School District No. 5 respectfully requests your consideration of a change in the 1988 guidelines for football operations. The essential reasons for this request are as follows:

- The newly installed LED lights provide a vastly different lighting field than those installed in 1988. The ability to direct the lights to the field has eliminated light spillage onto other areas of the Amity property or private property adjacent to the school (see attached).
- The expansion of athletics teams since 1988 has increased the number of teams accessing the stadium field for both practice and competition.
- The current guidelines only accommodate football (a boys' sport). Updating the guidelines to reflect all athletic contests would open opportunity for equal access for girls' sports.
- Some of the guidelines are outdated with regard to personnel and crowd management and control at the football games.

The new guidelines that the Amity Regional School District requests for consideration are as follows:

1. There will be adequate school staff to direct traffic and adequate police to monitor back gate during football contests held at the stadium.
2. Athletic contests that require the use of the stadium lights will be scheduled to conclude by 9:00 pm. It is understood that weather delays, overtime periods, or other unpredictable events may periodically result in contests ending after 9:00 pm.
3. Following contests, parking areas will be cleared by 9:30 pm.
4. Contests will generally be held to 20 evenings during a school year, exclusive of playoffs and championships.
5. Practices requiring lights will not exceed established sound ordinances.
6. Lights may be used when student athlete safety is at risk, including but not limited to low light levels due to dusk or excessive cloud cover. Determination for the use of lights for athlete safety

will be made by the athletic director in consultation with coaches, athletic trainers, and/or officials.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer P. Byars". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jennifer P. Byars, Ed.D.

Cc: Paul David, Amity BOE Chair
Stephen Martoni, Amity Director of Facilities
Ernest Goodwin, Amity Athletic Director

Attachments: 1988 Letter from TPZ Commission
2021 Amity Stadium Light Study